

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, BL

SUBJ: GOB YIELDS IN DISPUTE WITH MINERS

1. ON MARCH 6 THE GOB FREED OFFICIALS OF THE MINE WORKERS FEDERATION (FSTMB) WHO HAD BEEN IN CUSTODY SINCE NOVEMBER 1974 FOR REFUSING TO SERVE AS "LABOR COORDINATORS" UNDER THE DECREE OF OBLIGATORY CIVIL SERVICE. AT THE SAME TIME, A RESOLUTION SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE MINISTERS OF MINING AND OF LABOR NAMED 23 FORMER MEMBERS OF THE FSTMB EXECUTIVE BOARD AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKERS IN MINING AND DIRECTED THAT CONTACT WITH MINERS TAKE PLACE THROUGH THEM. IN OTHER WORDS, THE FSTMB WAS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES RECONSTITUTED AS IT EXISTED IN NOVEMBER 1974 WHEN THE GOB HAD ANNOUNCED THE "NEW ORDER". TRADE UNION LEADERS FROM MANY SECTORS CONSIDER THIS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR THE MINERS AND FOR THE LABOR MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE.

2. COMMENT: THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE FSTMB SHOULD MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT IN THE STATE OF LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN THE RECENTLY TROUBLED MINING SECTOR, BUT THE MINERS SUCCESSFUL DEFIANCE OF GOB LABOR POLICY MAY CAUSE WORKERS IN OTHER SECTORS TO PUSH THEIR LEADERS INTO ASSUMING A MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE VIS-A-VIS THE "NEW ORDER" RESTRICTIONS ON UNION ACTIVITY.

STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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